



## INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

# Flood 2008

## Advice for Residential Debris Cleanup

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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**Description:**

- Hoosiers living in areas impacted by flooding and other storm damage must work to properly dispose of damaged residential contents and structural items.
- Flood-related residential debris can include waste lumber, drywall, siding, roofing, furniture, asbestos-containing items, appliances, glass, plastics and other man-made materials, metal, household trash, food waste, vehicles and machinery, and animals that were killed during the emergency.
- Separation of various waste items is encouraged to help ensure the proper management and disposal of debris. Waste categories include:
  - Municipal solid waste, such as clothing, plastics, carpeting and furniture that cannot be salvaged.
  - Construction and demolition debris, such as lumber, bricks, concrete and drywall from damaged or destroyed structures.
  - Appliances, including refrigerators, air conditioners and hot water heaters.
  - Household hazardous waste, such as common household products with hazardous properties used in cleaning, home improvement projects, automobile maintenance, lawn and garden care, and a variety of other tasks. Mercury-containing products, gasoline, used motor oil, antifreeze, oil filters, batteries, electronics, television monitors, paints stains and varnishes, and pesticides are accepted at household hazardous waste collection facilities.
  - Clean wood, such as brush, trees and other vegetation.
- Stray drums and waste containers, cylinders and pressure vessels washed up onto residential property should be assessed for any special handling that might be required.

**Environmental Impacts:**

- Improper waste disposal poses a risk of ground and surface water contamination, rodent and insect concerns, and accidental fire.
- Illegal open burning of waste items releases harmful smoke and presents a public health hazard. Never burn solid waste items such as shingles, carpeting, furniture, plastics, flooring.
- Composting and chipping clean wood waste is a beneficial form of recycling.
- Petroleum or chemical spills can cause harm to plants, wildlife and people, if not properly addressed.

**IDEM's Role:**

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.

- IDEM provides information and guidance to local governments to help them effectively manage debris at staging sites prior to final disposal at landfills.
- IDEM provides information and guidance to residents about pollution prevention.

### **Citizen's Role:**

- Emergency debris management efforts in local communities may vary, based on local needs and available resources. Residents may need to place waste at the curb for pickup by a waste hauler, take waste to an emergency collection site established in the community, or take waste to a local landfill. For information, contact the local government office in your area that is designated to help manage emergency debris, such as the street department, mayor's office, county emergency management agency, local solid waste management district, county commissioners or county highway department.
- For effective management, separate municipal solid waste, construction debris, appliances, household hazardous waste, and clean wood waste.
- Never burn municipal solid waste items, including shingles, siding, flooring, carpeting, drywall, plastics and other man-made items. The open burning of municipal solid waste items is prohibited.
- Note that household products with hazardous ingredients are commonly sold in tightly-sealed, sturdy plastic or metal containers; avoid throwing out undamaged products.
- Contact your local solid waste management district for information about the management of appliances and household hazardous waste.
- Avoid open burning of clean wood waste at your residence. Compost or chip clean wood waste, or use larger pieces to make firewood. Contact your local solid waste management district for information about programs to manage clean wood waste. If you must open burn clean wood waste, contact your local government for information about any local restrictions or bans on the residential open burning of clean wood waste.
- Report stray barrels, waste containers, cylinders and pressure vessels to authorities. Contact your local emergency management agency or the IDEM toll-free 24-hour spill line at (888) 233-7745.
- Report releases of oil, gasoline or chemicals to the IDEM toll free 24-hour spill line at (888) 233-7745.

### **More Information:**

- For a list of solid waste landfills in Indiana, visit the IDEM website at <http://www.in.gov/idem/5047.htm>.
- For local solid waste management districts, visit the IDEM website at <http://www.in.gov/recycle/2888.htm>.
- For household hazardous waste service providers, visit the IDEM website at <http://www.in.gov/recycle/2844.htm>.
- For composting yard waste and debris, visit the IDEM website at <http://www.in.gov/recycle/2841.htm>.
- For residential open burning of clean wood, visit the IDEM website at <http://www.in.gov/idem/4549.htm>.
- For local emergency management agencies, visit the State of Indiana website at <http://www.in.gov/gov/3745.htm>.
- For the IDEM Storm Damage Update, visit <http://www.in.gov/idem/5504.htm> or call IDEM toll free at (800) 451-6027.
- For the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) disaster debris website, visit <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/debris.htm>.